

Music Critic Praises Ability Of Utica Girl on Accordion

Miss Arlene Schmitter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schmitter, formerly of 30 Scott, and a student at Potsdam State Teachers College, has been in California with her family this Summer. In Santa Rosa she was one of three entertainers who won the right to appear with the Horace Heidt Show. More than 50 competed for the honor.

A Santa Rosa Press-Democrat music critic wrote of Miss Schmitter:

"Eighteen-year-old Arlene Schmitter has been playing the accordion since she was five. She appeared on the Major Bowes Amateur Hour when she was nine, and the 27-inch trophy she won, as the second accordion champion of the year, was almost as tall as she was.

"While still a child performer, she took honors in three national championships on the accordion. She has two more years to go to

get her teachers' credential at Potsdam in New York State. Since she has started school there she has been on the dean's list, the college honor role, every term.

Quite a versatile young lady, during her freshman year Miss Schmitter played viola in the college symphony. She sings in the Collegiate Singers, the touring 40-voice choir; sang under direction of Robert Shaw in the Potsdam Festival last year and had her own radio show over the campus station WNTC.

"She took first place with her singing of "With Verdure Clad" from Haydn's "Creation" at an oratorio contest for soloists in Ottawa, Can., sponsored by Rotary International.

"In addition to her other accomplishments she holds a four-year scholarship in piano at the college. In fact, she says that if she returns to the college this Fall, she will have four Scholarships to see her through. She is tempted to



ARLENE SCHMITTER

give up her school to devote all her time to entertaining.

"If I may offer some advice: 'Don't do it Arlene. There is plenty of time, yet and that teacher's certificate is like money in the bank.'